

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-09

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7745

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

FBIS OKINAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 12854

WARNING NOTICE SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS
INVOLVED

NOFORN

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PINT, ECON, ARGIC, CH

SUBJECT:FEI I-MIN ON TACHAI CONFERENCE MODEL

REF: (A) HK 12533; (B) HK 10841

1. NPC PRESIDIUM MEMBER AND EDITOR OF HONG KONG'S PRC-
CONTROLLED TA KUNG PAO FEI I-MIN TOLD CONGENOFFS THAT THE
TOP CHINESE PROVINCIAL PARTICIPANTS IN THE TACHAI AGRI-
CULTURAL PRODUCTION CONFERENCE WHICH OFFICIALLY CLOSED
ON OCTOBER 19 WERE STILL IN PEKING DISCUSSING THE MODALITIES
OF PLANNING FOR THE BUILDING OF THE NEW TACHAI-TYPE COUNTIES.
HE SPECIFICALLY DESCRIBED THE PROCESS OF DETERMING WHICH
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OF THE COUNTRIES WOULD BE SELECTED TO BECOME TACHAI-IZED

AND THE ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES TO ACCOMPLISH THIS--
INCLUDING STATE FUNDS AND ALLOCATIONS OF SCARCE COMMODITIES
SUCH AS FERTILIZER AND MACHINERY.

2. DISCUSSING THE ELEMENTS INVOLVED IN BECOMING A TACHAI-IZED COUNTRY, FEI REITERATED THE STANDARD POLITICIAL GUIDLINES FOR MOBILIZATION OF THE MASSES AND FOR WORKING HARD AND SELF-RELIANTLY (REFTEL A) . RESPONDING TO QUESTION HE ADDED THAT MECHANIZATION WAS DEFINITELY A PART OF THE TACHAI EXPERIENCE AND USED AS AN EXAMPLE THE REBUILDING OF TACHAI'S TIGER HEAD MOUNTAIN (HU TOU SHAN) WHICH INVOLVED COMBININGITS PREVIOUS 42 TERRACED LEVELS INTO 16 "SMALL PLAINS" WHCIH COULD USE TRACTORS AND MECHANIZED CULTIVATION TECHINQUES. FEI SAID THAT TACHAI BRIGADE PARTY SECRETARY KUO FENG-LIEN TOLD HIM THAT THE ULTIMATE GOAL WOULD BE EIGHT OR POSSIBLY EVEN SIX TERRACES. (SPEECHES BY KUO AND HSI YANG COUNTRY DEPUTY SECRETARY WANG CHIN-TZU AT THE TACHAI CONFERENCE HAD ALLUDED TO THIS PART OF TACHAI'S MECHANIZATION EFFORT--HK 11627).

3. FEI DISMISSED THE IDEA THAT TACHAI'S LACK OF PRIVATE PLOTS WOULD MEAN THAT THE NEW COUNTIES WOULD DO AWAY WITH THEM AND SEEMED TO DESCRIBE THEIR ABSENCE AT TACHAI AS A TACHAI DEFICIENCY. FOLLOWING UP ON THIS AND THE IMPLICATIONS THAT TACHAI'S ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE WHICH DOES NOT INCLUDE PRODUCTION TEAMS WAS ALSO SOMEWHAT CONTRADICTORY WITH THE CONSTITUTION'S THREE LEVELS OF PRODUCTION, FEI SUGGESTED THAT A NEW THREE-LEVEL ARRANGE-MENT WOULD EXIST. THIS WOULD BE THE BRIGADE, COMMUNE, AND COUNTY, IMPLYING AT LEAST THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE PRC MAY TRY TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM OF BUILDING UP THE PRIMARY- LEVEL PRODUCTION TEAMS INTO BRIGADES BY A BIT OF VERBAL LEGERDEMAIN. AS A POSSIBLE INDICATOR OF THIS EFFORT, FEI STATED THAT PERHAPS AS EARLY AS THE BEGINNING OF NEXT YEAR, THE TACHAI PRODUCTION DRIGADE WOULD BE EXPANDED TO INCLUDE A NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL BRIGADES AND COMMUNES AND BECOME A TACHAI COUNTY, SEPERATE FROM THE PRESENT. HSIYANG COUNTY.

4. FEI ALSO STATED THAT THE NEW FIVE YEAR PLAN WILL SEEK
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TO "DOUBLE"CHINA'S AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION BY 1980.
OPERATING FROM A 1974 BASE OF 257 MILLION TONS OF GRAIN,
FEI'S PROJECTION OF THE GOAL OF THE TACHAI MECHANIZATION
EFFORT WHICH HAS BEEN MOST-TALKED ABOUT (REFTELS) WOULD
PUSH A FIGURE FAR ABOVE THE OPTIMISTIC 400 MILLION TONS
REPORTED EARLIER IN HIS OWN PAPER AND SOURCED TO YAO
WEN-YUAN (HK 12723).

5. COMMENT: WE FIND IT DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT FEI'S PROJECTION OF A "DOUBLING OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION" BY 1980 IS A REAL GOAL IN CHINA AT THE PRESENT TIME. HOWEVER, FEI WAS QUITE INSISTENT THAT THIS IS A TARGET HE PERHAPS WAS THINKING OF A MORE DISTANT PERIOD OF TIME THAN 1980, OR CONFUSED DOUBLING THE RATE OF GROWTH RATHER THAN THE OVERALL PRODUCTION FIGURE. EVEN THE 400 MILLION TONS WHICH HAS BEEN REFERRED TO IN THE MEDIA OUTSIDE CHINA SEEMS AMBITIOUS AND OUT OF KEEPING WITH THE GENERAL TENOR OF SETTING ACHIEVABLE TARGETS FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. (HK 12814).

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